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Michael H. Passman*

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I. INTRODUCTION

On January 16, 2006, ten Somali nationals hijacked the M/V SAFINA AL-BIRSARAT, an Indian-registered dhow. These pirates used the dhow to attack other ships in the area. One of the ships radioed the International Maritime Bureau, which operates a piracy reporting

^{* © 2008} Michael H. Passman. The author is an associate at Cassiday Schade LLP in Chicago. The author would like to thank Judge Evan J. Wallach of the United States Court of International Trade for his guidance and for reading a number of earlier drafts; CDR James McMahon, USCG of the Naval War College; LT Chris Williams, JAGC, USN of the Naval Academy; and Jean Davis, Linda Holmes, and Harold O'Grady of the Brooklyn Law School Library for their suggestions and research assistance; and Daniel Arking, Alex Haskell, and Benjamin P. O'Glasser for commenting on earlier drafts.

John C.K. Daly, UPI Intelligence Watch, UNITED PRESS INT'L, Mar. 18, 2006, http://www.upi.com/Security_Terrorism/Analysis/2006/03/17/upi_intelligence_watch/8288.

^{2.} A dhow is a type of ship common to East Africa, India, and the Middle East. See 1 THE NEW SHORTER OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY 658 (Lesley Brown ed., 4th ed. 1993) (defining "dhow" as "[a] lateen-rigged sailing vessel of the Arabian Sea, with one or two masts"). A modern dhow does not necessarily have sails and masts, but follows the general design of its predecessors.

Paul Raffaele, The Pirate Hunters, SMITHSONIAN, Aug. 2007, at 38.

^{4.} IMB: International Maritime Bureau, http://www.icc-ccs.org/imb/overview.php (last visited Sept. 16, 2008) ("The ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) is a specialised division of the International Chamber of Commerce . . . established in 1981 to act as a focal point in the fight against all types of maritime crime and malpractice.").